



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

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Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney

Contact: Joseph N. Laplante
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

“OPERATION MOVING DAY”

DOVER MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGES

United States v. Jeffrey WILLETT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Clifford Ellston, and Dover Police Chief William Fenniman, announced that Jeffrey WILLETT, 48, of Dover, New Hampshire, was sentenced on December 20, 2004 of federal weapons charges.

WILLETT entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with being in possession of a shotgun with an obliterated serial number in Dover on September 10, 2003.

At today's sentencing, Judge McAuliffe imposed a sentence of 15 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which WILLETT's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

WILLETT was arrested by ATF and New Hampshire Drug Task Force officers on May 10, 2004 as part of "Operation Moving Day," an undercover investigation into drug and firearm distribution in and around the Dover Housing Authority apartment complex. According to an affidavit in support of a Criminal Complaint issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Muirhead, WILLETT sold firearms with obliterated serial numbers to an undercover detective in the area of the Dover Housing Authority apartment complex during the summer of 2003.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. This case involved cooperative, investigative and enforcement efforts by a federal agency (ATF), a state agency (the N.H. Drug Task Force), and a

local agency (the Dover Police Dept.). Prosecuting unlawful trafficking in firearms is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire, and to work closely with our partners at the federal, state, and local levels.”

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against WILLETT, part of the Department of Justice’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the N.H. Attorney General’s Drug Task Force, and the Dover Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.

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